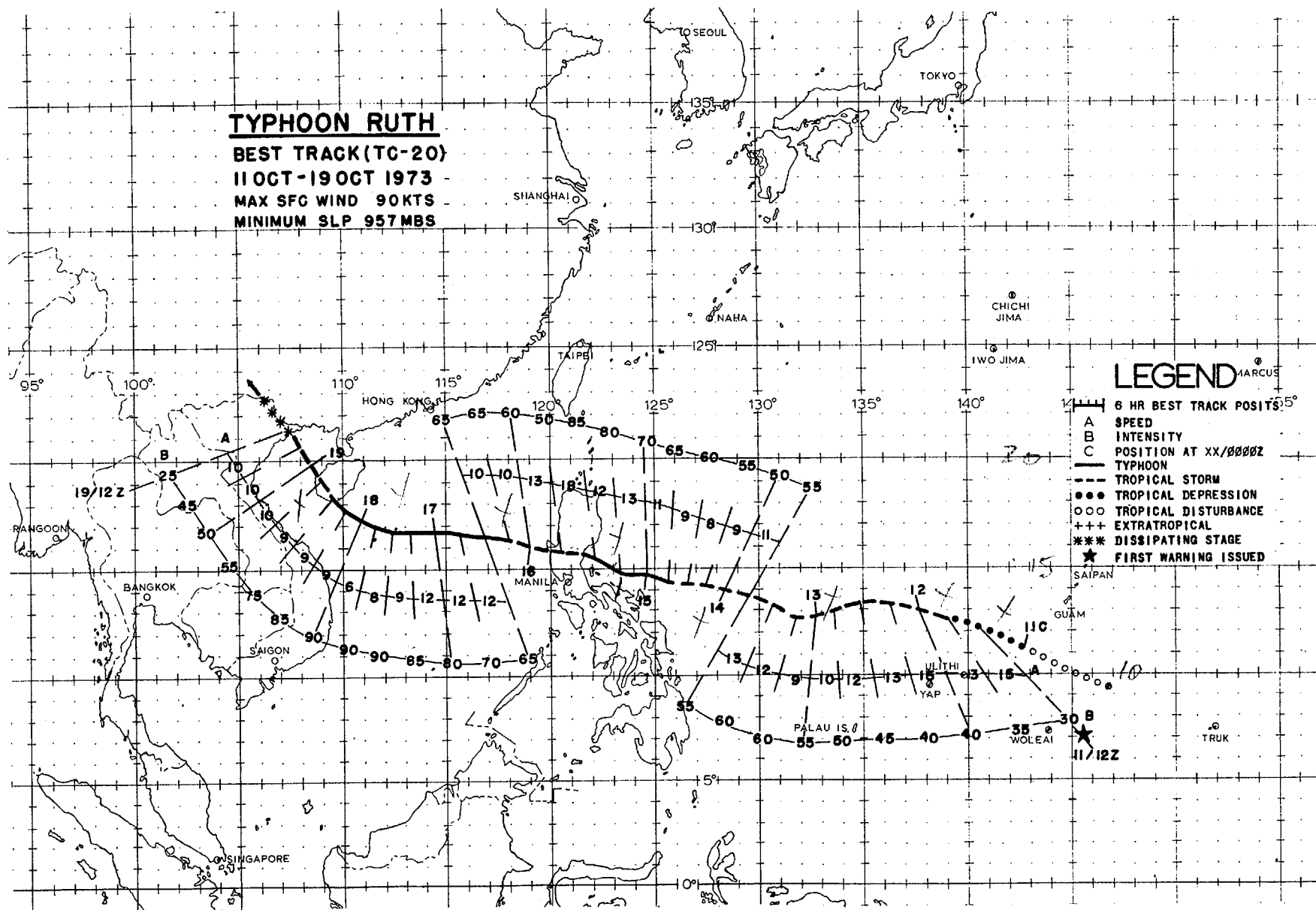


**TYPHOON RUTH**  
**BEST TRACK (TC-20)**  
**11 OCT-19 OCT 1973**  
**MAX SFC WIND 90KTS**  
**MINIMUM SLP 957MBS**



**LEGEND**

- 6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
- A SPEED
- B INTENSITY
- C POSITION AT XX/0000Z
- TYPHOON
- TROPICAL STORM
- ... TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- ... TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
- +++ EXTRATROPICAL
- \*\*\* DISSIPATING STAGE
- ★ FIRST WARNING ISSUED

The formative stage of Ruth appeared early on 10 October as a weak circulation in the monsoon trough in the western Caroline Islands. By the 11th, an area of enhanced convective activity associated with the cyclonic circulation became evident from satellite imagery. Ship reports on the afternoon of the 11th located Tropical Storm Ruth about 250nm westsouthwest of Guam with maximum winds of 35 kts.

Ruth followed 3 days behind Patsy. She tracked approximately 120nm to the south of but parallel to Patsy's track across the Philippine Sea. It is interesting to note that although Patsy intensified rapidly to super typhoon strength, Ruth developed slowly and reached typhoon intensity three days after she became a tropical storm. (Figure 4-23). The satellite data for this period showed little or no convective activity on the north side of Ruth. The strong upper tropospheric northeast flow from the subtropical ridge may have contributed to suppressing the outflow from Ruth on the north side and thereby inhibiting her development.

She continued her westerly movement with slow intensification until landfall on Luzon on the 15th, with maximum sustained wind speeds of 85 kts. Rapid weakening then occurred as the low level inflow was disrupted by terrain effects. Her maximum sustained wind had decreased to 50 kts by the time she reached central Luzon.

Ruth passed 42 miles north of Clark AB late on the night of the 15th where

maximum sustained winds of 30 kts and peak gusts of 43 kts were recorded. Only minor damage was reported at Clark AB. Baler recorded maximum peak gust of 95 kts from the north (15/1355 GMT) while Casiguran 50 nm further north on the coast experienced a gust to 98 kts three hours later (15/1700 GMT).

On the 16th Ruth entered the South China Sea and tracked westward toward the Paracel Islands, still under the steering influence of the subtropical ridge (Figure 4-24). A Japanese ship IDEMITSU MARU reported 50 kts of wind and a surface pressure of 995mb as she passed 90nm northwest of Ruth (16/0000 GMT). She reintensified on her sojourn across the South China Sea reaching a maximum intensity of 90 kts on the afternoon of the 17th just east of the Paracels. Shortly after attaining her maximum intensity, Ruth turned to a northwesterly course in response to a weakness in the subtropical ridge. She then crossed Hainan Island and entered the Tonkin Gulf with maximum sustained winds of 50 kts. Ruth continued to weaken rapidly as upper tropospheric support waned, and dissipated completely as she moved inland along the North Vietnam coast on the afternoon of the 19th.

Damage reports indicate that while Ruth was crossing Luzon, 27 people were killed, 30 people were injured and 23 people were missing. Property damage amounted to more than five million dollars (U.S.) with thousands of homes destroyed.

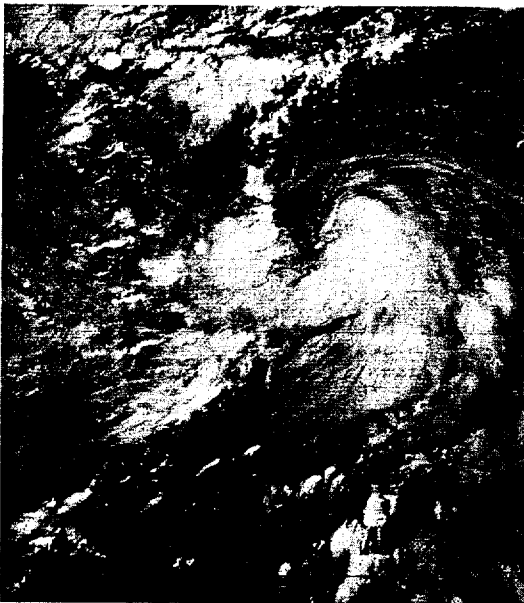


FIGURE 4-23. Tropical Storm Ruth in the Philippine Sea 225 nm east of Catanduanes Island, 14 October 1973, 0009 GMT. (DMSP imagery)

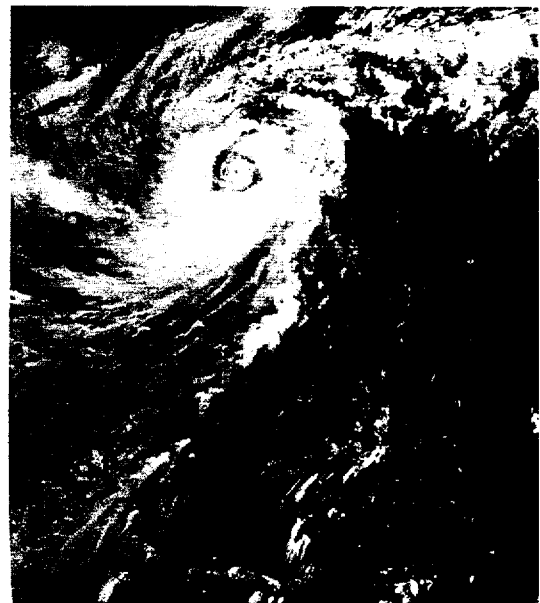


FIGURE 4-24. Tropical Storm Ruth reintensifying after crossing Luzon, 16 October 1973, 0359 GMT. (DMSP imagery)